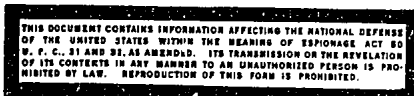


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SOVIET NEWSPAPERS REVIEW PROGRESS  
IN RADIOFICATION ON RADIO DAY 1953

On Soviet Radio Day, 7 May, many newspapers reported on the progress of radiofication. Information from these reports, as well as some data from earlier sources, is presented below, for the USSR as a whole and for individual republics.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

On 7 May 1953, Pravda stated that from 1950 to 1952 the number of wired radio speakers in villages increased 1.5 times, and the number of wired radio centers in kolkhozes almost three times. Pravda added, however, that the rate of radiofication was not satisfactory, especially in villages. Many kolkhoz wired radio centers were either not working at full capacity or not at all. The radio industry was not producing enough loud-speakers nor enough spare parts. Radio programs, according to Pravda, often do not satisfy the growing interests of their listeners.(1)

Leninskoye Znamya reported on 7 May that the plan for constructing radio broadcasting stations during the Fourth Five-Year Plan was fulfilled 139 percent. By the end of 1950, the power of wired radio centers had grown 3.5 times, in comparison with 1945. The paper also stated that all cities, rayon centers, and many workers' settlements and rural populated points had been radiofied.(2)

On 6 May 1953, Tass Informatsiya said that the power of wired radio centers had grown 3.5 times over 1945 by the end of 1950, and that the power of the radio receiving network exceeded the prewar level by 75 percent.(3)

Turkmenskaya Iskra of 7 May 1953 reported that more than 20 new powerful radio broadcasting stations had been built during the postwar years. In the same period the power of wired radio centers increased to 300 percent of what it had been in 1940 and the number of wired radio speakers in the country had increased by 4 million.(4) According to Sovetskaya Moldaviya, in 1950 the number of wired radio centers had increased three times over 1940.(5)

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According to Sovetskiy Svyazist, in 1952 the state revenues plan for the communications sector of the economy was fulfilled only 99.4 percent. The plan for capital investment was not fulfilled and some qualitative indexes had declined in comparison to 1951.(6)

Izvestiya stated on 7 May 1953 that the rate of radiofication was not satisfactory. The Armenian and Georgian SSRs were reported to be especially lagging in this respect. One of the main causes for the failure was said to be the lack of loud-speakers.(7) According to Radio of March 1953, the lack of a power supply had considerably limited the number of wired radio centers that could be built. In many places, wind operated generators were used.(8) Radio of May 1953 reported that organs of the Ministry of Communications -- especially radiofication enterprises of the Georgian and Turkmen SSRs and Chitinskaya, Sverdlovskaya, and Chelyabinskaya oblasts -- had not fulfilled the 1952 plan for radiofication of kolkhozes; they had failed to increase the number of wired radio speakers connected to wired radio centers of the Ministry of Communications. Radio stressed that 30 million wired radio speakers must be installed by the end of 1955. During 6 years, 1950 - 1955, the Ministry of Communications is to increase the number of wired radio speakers in villages 4.5 times. So far, Radio continued, radiofication is behind schedule.(9)

#### RSFSR

Komsomol'skaya Pravda on 6 May 1953 stated that hundreds of thousands of new wired radio centers have been built in lumbering and miller settlements during the last 2 years. The paper added that loud-speakers had been installed in hundreds of thousands of homes of lumber workers in northern and eastern regions of the RSFSR. There were powerful wired radio centers in villages in the Taiga areas of Yakutskaya ASSR, Arkhangel'skaya, Vologodskaya, Molotovskaya, Tyumenskaya, and other oblasts. About 300 low-powered wired radio centers were equipped for those living in small settlements. The paper stated that all basic lumbering and timber-floating trusts have two-way radio communication with their enterprises. In 1953, construction of 273 powerful wired radio centers is planned in lumbering settlements.(10)

According to Moskovskaya Pravda, in 1952 more than 19,000 new wired radio speakers were installed in cities, workers settlements, and kolkhozes of Moskovskaya Oblast. More than 60,000 workers in the oblast have radios. Of 200 kilometers of new radio lines constructed in 1952, a considerable portion went through kolkhoz villages.(11)

Vechernnyaya Moskva on 8 April 1953 outlined the 1953 plan for communications in Moskovskaya Oblast, as follows: to exceed the state revenue by 15.9 million rubles; to lower operational expenses by 3.7 million rubles by rationalizing use of materials; to finish installing the required number of wired radio speakers on 7 December; to install 5,000 wired radio speakers above the amount required in the plan.(12)

On 6 May, Moskovskiy Komsomolets stated that there were 600,000 wired radio speakers and more than 200,000 radios in Moskovskaya Oblast. In 1953, the number of radios in kolkhozes had increased seven times over 1940. During the first 4 months of 1953, the paper continued, kolkhoz workers acquired about 15,000 radios. The oblast communications administration has planned to install about 40,000 new wired radio speakers in villages of the oblast in 1953.(13)

Moskovskaya Pravda of 7 May 1953 revealed that, during a 24-hour period, the Moscow radio center "Glavsevmorputi" receives more than 15 weather reports from different parts of the Far North: from Vrangeli, Rudol'i, Dikson and Koteln'nyy islands; from Shmidt and Chelyuskin capes; from Tiksi and Tikhaya bays and others.(14)

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In April 1953, Radio reported that 160,000 rubles had been saved in Ivanovskaya Oblast by combining the work of communications facilities. Work stoppages in wired radio centers were sharply reduced. Operating periods of 12 wired radio centers were increased and most wired radio centers were operating from 14 to 17 hours a day. Operating periods for 14 large central communications departments of intra-rayon communications had been increased from 8 to 18 hours.(15)

On 22 April 1953, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya reported that wired radio speakers had been installed in 1953 in four villages of Penzhinskiy Rayon in Kamchatskaya Oblast. Twenty wired radio centers are to be built in 1953 in Koryakskiy National Okrug alone.(16)

#### Karelo-Finnish SSR

According to Leninskoye Znamya of 7 May, there are 35,000 wired radio speakers in the Karelo-Finnish SSR. There are 10 times more radios and 4.5 times more wired radio centers than in 1940. In 1955, the republic is to be completely radiofied. Eighty wired radio centers are to be built during 1953. Radio broadcasts from Petropavlovsk are heard six hours daily.(2)

Komsomol'skaya Pravda stated on 6 May that during the last 2 years the number of wired radio centers in the Karelo-Finnish SSR tripled.(10)

#### Latvian SSR

Sovetskaya Latvija revealed on 7 May that there are more than 80,000 wired radio speakers and more than 130,000 radios in the republic. By 1955, the number of wired radio speakers in kolkhozes is to increase six times.(17)

On 22 March, the same paper had reported that by the end of 1953, 50,000 kolkhozes and all field brigades are to be radiofied and local radio broadcasting is to be organized in oblast centers and in 20 rayons. In 1952, the Ministry of Light Industry was to manufacture 50,000 loud-speakers, but only 9 percent of them were produced. Engineering and technical workers of communications worked out and introduced a new type of radio equipment permitting broadcasting over telephone wires. Sovetskaya Latvija added, however, that the rate of wire radiofication in rural areas had been noticeably reduced. Thousands of homes in rayons were reported to be without wired radio speakers, information and technical assistance was difficult to obtain, and much red tape was encountered when materials were requested.(18) On 26 April, the paper reported that 1,620 homes of Ogrskiy Rayon have their own radios; 700 of them were acquired during 1952.(19)

#### Estonian SSR

On 7 May, Sovetskaya Estoniya stated that in comparison with 1945 the number of wired radio speakers had increased 3.5 times and the number of radio centers had tripled. In Vil'yandiskiy Rayon the wired radio speaker network considerably decreased during 1952.(20)

#### Ukrainian SSR

According to Radio of April 1953, about 100,000 rubles had been saved by the combining of communications facilities in 193 rayon communications offices and in 128 communications departments.(15)

#### Moldavian SSR

According to Sovetskaya Moldaviya, during the last 3 years the number of wired radio speakers increased 2.3 times and the number of kolkhoz wired radio centers more than three times. The number of loud-speakers increased 18 times and the number of radios grew more than 8 times during the last 3 years.

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The paper reported that, during 1953, 30,000 loud-speakers and 8,000 radios are to be installed in the republic. During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, hundreds of thousands of overhead and underground lines are to be installed and the number of loud-speakers and radios is to be increased five times. The paper stated, however, that in some rayons wired radio centers have not been operating regularly and the quality of broadcasting is inferior; some centers do not operate at full capacity and others fail to work at all.(5)

Sovetskaya Moldaviya reported on 27 February 1953 that a network of inter-kolkhoz wired radio centers was growing in Lipkanskiy Rayon. An interkolkhoz wired radio center constructed last year in Belyavintsy serves more than one thousand homes. Recently, a radio line network was installed in Kotyuzhna village, where there are 200 wired radio speakers (21)

Georgian SSR

According to Zarya Vostoka of 7 May, there are about 400 wired radio centers and 120,000 wired radio speakers in the Georgian SSR. The paper added that there are more than 100 wired radio centers in kolkhozes of the Georgian SSR, but many of these speakers do not work satisfactorily.(22) On 30 April 1953, the paper reported that a powerful wired radio center is being built in Akhali-Kingri, a village of Ochamchirskiy Rayon, which will serve several villages. Radio relay lines connect a number of other villages in this rayon. The paper added that loud-speakers were being installed in 600 kolkhoz homes. Villages of Gagrinskiy Rayon were being radiofied and wired radio centers were under construction in kolkhozes of Gal'skiy, Sukhumskiy, and Akhali-fonskiy rayons. Thirty-nine village wired radio centers were in operation in Abkhazskaya ASSR.(23)

Armenian SSR

According to Kommunist of 7 May, there are more than 51,000 wired radio speakers in the Armenian SSR. Of these, more than one third are located in villages.(24)

Azerbaijdzhan SSR

On 7 May 1953, Bakinskiy Rabochiy reported that 300 wired radio centers serving 90,000 wired radio speakers were in operation in cities and villages of the republic. The paper added that more than 17,000 wired radio speakers have been installed in rural areas, and that there are 1,339 radiofied kolkhozes in the Azerbaijdzhan SSR.(25)

Kazakh SSR

Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of 8 May revealed that during 1952 about 300 wired radio centers were put in operation (26) On the preceding day, however, the paper reported that the quality of broadcasts did not meet expectations.(27)

Turkmen SSR

According to Turkmeneskaya Iskra, there are more than 53,000 wired radio speakers and 15,000 radios in the Turkmen SSR. The article stated that, during the last 3 years, the number of wired radio centers tripled and the number of wired radio speakers increased nine times. The radiofication of 196 kolkhozes in the republic has been completed. The article stated, however, that many kolkhoz wired radio centers do not work because they are out of repair. During 1953, radiofication workers plan to build 600 kilometers of radiofication lines, to reassemble 22 wired radio centers, and to increase the number of wired radio speakers by 13,000, of which 10,000 are to be installed in villages.(4) On 8 April, the paper reported that 2,000 wired radio speakers were being put in operation in 1953 in kolkhoz villages of Krasnovodskaya Oblast.(28)

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Tadzhik SSR

On 25 April 1953, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported that there were wired radio centers and radio broadcast lines in operation in all cities, rayon centers, and workers' settlements of the Tadzhik SSR.(29)

Kirgiz SSR

According to Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, there are tens of wired radio centers, more than 60,000 wired radio speakers, and more than 19,000 radios in the republic. By the end of 1955, there are to be 75,000 new wired radio speakers in the Kirgiz SSR.(30)

Uzbek SSR

On 7 May, Sovetskaya Moldaviya reported that in 1953 the number of radio installations in the Uzbek SSR had quadrupled since 1940. It stated that more than 75 percent of all kolkhozes in the republic were radiofied. By using an "Urozhay" radio center, a dispatcher service was set up in 90 MTS which directed the work of all tractor brigades.(5)

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